

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2007

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Mayor Marie Lopez-Rogers, City of Avondale, Chair	*Mayor Joan Shafer, City of Surprise
*Councilmember Rob Antoniak, City of Goodyear	*Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County
+Councilmember Dave Crozier, Town of Gilbert	
*Councilmember Roy Delgado, City of El Mirage	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>
Councilmember Trinity Donovan, City of Chandler	Gina Griffiths, MAG
Laura Guild for Susan Hallet, DES	Teresa Grantham, MAG
*Councilmember Kyle Jones, City of Mesa, Vice Chair	Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert
+Councilmember Manuel Martinez, City of Glendale	Bob Baratko, City of Surprise
*Jim McCabe, Area Agency on Aging	Brittany Lane, MAG
+Carol McCormack, Mesa United Way	Amy St. Peter, MAG
Donna Reid, Scottsdale Human Services Commission	
Janet Regner, Tempe Community Council	
Jayson Matthews for Councilmember Onnie Sherejian, City of Tempe	

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.
+Those members present by audio/videoconferencing.

1. Call to Order
Ms. St. Peter announced that Councilmember Trinity Donovan would chair the meeting in Chair Lopez Roger's absence. Councilmember Donovan welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Introductions ensued.
2. Call to the Audience
No comments were made at this time.
3. Approval of the January 17, 2007 Human Services Coordinating Committee
Councilmember Donovan called for a motion to approve the January 17, 2007 meeting minutes. Councilmember Martinez, City of Glendale, moved to approve the minutes. Laura Guild, Department of Economic Security, seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

4. MAG Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan

Councilmember Donovan introduced Amy St. Peter, MAG, who presented the final draft of the MAG Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan. She began by commenting that this has been a long process and would like to thank everyone who has been involved. She said many stakeholders came together to develop this responsive plan. There are already plans to update the document next year. While the current plan is a good first step, it is definitely not the final step. She added that this is intended to be a tool for cities and towns to coordinate human services transportation. The plan provides specific strategies and the attachments, considerably longer, provide the detail to back up these strategies. The attachments include information like survey results, a needs assessment and descriptions of the three funding sources affected by the plan.

She stated that the plan was developed in compliance with SAFETEA-LU regulations. These new regulations mandate that funds for Section 5310 Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities; Section 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute; and Section 5317 New Freedom must be coordinated with a locally derived plan. This plan should coordinate human services transportation with any agency requesting these funds. A diverse group of stakeholders has developed the plan. This group includes transportation service providers, non-profit agencies, municipal staff and elected officials.

The plan includes three short-term strategies. These strategies will lay a good foundation for additional strategies to be implemented in the future. The first strategy will be to track coordination practices already in place. Best practices will be identified and offered for regional replication. The second strategy is to conduct sub-regional meetings in the East Valley, West Valley and Phoenix to help familiarize providers with one another. These groups will work on specific action steps throughout the year. These strategies will be reported out at a regional meeting with all stakeholders next year. The third strategy will synthesize information about transportation services providers from the public, non-profit and for-profit sectors into one directory online.

Ms. St. Peter reported the short-term strategies have been approved by the MAG Regional Council already so training could be offered on the applications for the three funding sources affected by the plan. While some wanted more aggressive strategies, a foundation needs to be built first. The plan itself will be forwarded for approval by the MAG Regional Council in May. The plan needs to be in place by July 1, 2007 to comply with federal regulations. The plan will be updated next year with the findings from the RPTA para-transit study and the regional meeting.

Councilmember Donovan said this item is slated for action and asked for a motion to recommend the MAG Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan for approval. Janet Regner so moved. Jayson Matthews seconded the motion. There were no questions or additional comments. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

5. Resource Assessment Project

Carl Harris-Morgan presented the project design as recommended by the Human Services Technical Committee (HSTC). Mr. Harris-Morgan stated that the purpose of the project is to familiarize MAG Committees and community partners with resources used to address human services throughout the region. He said that the project will be achieved through two steps to address two different elements, these elements are mapping and analysis.

Mr. Harris-Morgan said the mapping of the project is the first step in which HSTC proposed to map the locations of the Community Action Programs (CAP). The CAP's were chosen to be mapped first because they are vital resources for human services and they have distinct service delivery areas that do not overlap. Mr. Harris-Morgan noted that the CAP offices will be portrayed by icon with their service delivery area indicated by circles. Indicators of need such as poverty, age, disabilities, and population density will be overlaid.

Mr. Harris-Morgan stated that the analysis portion of the project is the second step, which will be based on questions or issues that arise from the first map, additional indicators or resources will be mapped. The corresponding analysis would address questions like: what resources the region uses to meet human services needs, where these resources are located, and what is their capacity.

Mr. Harris Morgan concluded that the final product would be distributed to the MAG Human Services Committee and partners. He added that the report will be useful in helping municipalities plan for human services.

Ms. Regner asked if maps like this don't already exist. Mr. Carl Harris-Morgan said maps with this demographic information do not exist already. There are very basic maps that indicate the physical location of the CAP offices with their service delivery area. He said these maps will also have overlays of need indicators like poverty. He said these maps also represent just a starting point and are not the final product of the project. The MAG Human Services Technical Committee will assess what additional information is needed after the first maps are produced.

Ms. Regner said she supported the project because CAP offices are critical to meeting human services needs. She asked if the project would also assess the funding that CAP offices need to serve people effectively. Jayson Matthews said the analysis after the maps would likely include an assessment of funding and capacity. This will be defined in more detail after the maps have been analyzed.

Councilmember Donovan called for a motion to approve the Resource Assessment Project. Janet Regner made a motion to approve the project design. Laura Guild seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

6. 2007 Regional Human Services Summit Update

Gina Griffiths presented an update on the plans for the MAG 2007 Regional Human Services Summit. Ms. Griffiths informed the committee that there are six sponsors for the event: Arizona State University West, College of Human Services; Arizona Department of Economic Security; Value Options; the Arizona Council of Human Service Providers; APS; and SRP.

Ms. Griffiths stated that the purpose of the summit is to bring together key community stakeholders to form innovative partnerships for human services planning. The final product will be a written report of the issues with corresponding projects and strategies and a contact list of people who support the projects. Speakers and facilitators for the even are listed in attached documents.

Ms. Griffiths asked all committee members to promote the summit within their agencies, on their websites, and through their mail lists. Councilmember Martinez requested that the information be provided in electronic form. MAG will email the information to the Committee.

7. Committee Update

MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council

Councilmember Donovan introduced Teresa Grantham to offer an update on the Youth Empowerment Project, a joint project between the HSCC Youth Policy Stakeholders Group and the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council. Ms. Grantham presented the top three winning entries from the Youth Empowerment Project's public service announcement competition. She thanked Councilmember Donovan for her help in introducing her to the media arts instructor at Chandler High School. More than 50 entries were received for the video and storyboard categories. These were judged by teens and professionals. The winning entries were announced at a recognition event at Harkins Theater. Ms. Grantham recognized the Governor's Office and Value Options for supporting the project. The Committee viewed the top three video entries.

Ms. Grantham presented other materials related to the Youth Empowerment Project. She also referred the Committee to www.weboffriends.org to review the updated information. She said three peer testimonials have been added to the site since the last Committee meeting. Ms. Grantham said the stories were excellent and will hopefully be a constructive resource for teens experiencing dating violence. Carol McCormack asked Ms. Grantham to mail her 50 to 100 web of friends business cards so she could distribute them to their network of agencies. Ms. Grantham confirmed the cards would be mailed to her.

MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness

Amy St. Peter presented the results of the 2007 Homeless Street Count. She stated that 2,853 homeless individuals and families were counted in the region, an overall increase of 38 percent. Ms. St. Peter said the increase can in part be attributed to the rain, more volunteer participation, and more and improved trainings for the

volunteers. She stated that they know the number of families and youth on their own are low. She said families are often doubled up and that youth “couch surf,” or stay with one friend one night and another friend the next night, so that it is hard to gain accurate numbers that can be used in the count from the 25 cities and towns that participated.

MAG FTA Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Program Committee

Ms. Griffiths updated the Committee on the status of the Section 5310, Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Program application process. Twenty-four applications were received by 17 agencies on April 10, 2007. Applications were distributed to the Ranking Committee the following day. The Ranking Committee will turn in their initial rankings by April 25th, and applicant interviews will be held on April 27th to address any outstanding questions. Final rankings and recommendations will be forwarded to ADOT on May 24, 2007.

Mr. Matthews inquired as to the type of assistance provided in this program. Ms. Griffiths informed him that this is a capital assistance program. Agencies request vans, related communications equipment, or mobility management dollars. Mobility management dollars are new this year. This will provide funding for staff positions to facilitate coordination among agencies.

Carl Harris-Morgan asked about the maximum dollar amount of the assistance program. Ms. St. Peter responded that a specific number of vans will be awarded. Fortunately, in the MAG region, the number of requests typically matches the number of awards. Usually around 24 vans are awarded.

Ms. Guild asked if the list of applicants remains static from year to year. Ms. St. Peter responded that new agencies have applied this year. MAG has increased advertising of the program, and this seems to have generated more interest.

8. Legislative Update

Matt Clark presented an update on legislative activity on the state and federal levels pertaining to human services.

Mr. Clark stated that the HEARTH Act (H.R. 840), introduced February 6th by Julia Carson (D-7th/IN), Geoff Davis (R-4th/KY), Barbara Lee (D-9th/CA) and Rick Renzi (R-1st/AZ), seeks to reauthorize and strengthen the HUD McKinney-Vento Homeless assistance programs. HEARTH respects greater decision making at the local level, more closely aligns the HUD definition of homelessness with other federal agencies, expands resources for emergency shelter and supportive services, provides a framework for greater homeless prevention activity, and allows communities the flexibility to implement a range of housing solutions.

H.R. 840 currently counts 49 co-sponsors in the House and has been referred to the House Financial Services Committee. Additionally, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), National Health Care for the

Homeless, Catholic Charities USA, Volunteers of America, Family Promise, Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, Georgia Coalition to End Homelessness, Arizona Behavioral Health Association, and the Monroe (FL.) Association of Retarded Children are among just a few of the organizations that have endorsed HEARTH. He said it was his understanding that there are no hearings or mark-ups scheduled for this legislation at this time.

Mr. Clark stated that the President's FY 2008 discretionary Budget request includes reductions of \$630 million for the Community Services Block Grant Program. He said that the mandatory Budget includes \$17.1 billion for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, \$6.9 billion for Foster Care and related programs, \$4.0 billion for Child Support Enforcement and Family Support, and a proposed reduction of \$500 million to the Social Services Block Grant.

Mr. Clark maintained that the President's FY 2008 Budget request also includes reductions of \$735 million for the Community Development Block Grant Program for a total of \$2.97 billion. Other programs, including brownfields, in the Community Development fund would be consolidated into CDBG. He said that the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education held hearings to gather input on issues that need to be addressed in the appropriations bill. Mr. Clark added that the Senate Subcommittee has not met or scheduled hearings on the appropriations bill at this time.

Mr. Clark cited that the State of Arizona received \$15.4 million in LIHEAP funding in the final FY 2006 appropriations. The FY 2007 Continuing Resolution reduced that number to \$8.7 million. He said this represents a 47 percent reduction in LIHEAP funding. This is the second largest percentage reduction among the 50 states. The first was Alabama. The FY 2008 Budget request was \$6.12 million which represents a 25 percent decrease from 2007 funding a total decrease of 60 percent.

Mr. Clark began by stating that at the State level, the House and Senate are currently in the process of crafting the budget. Currently, two issues that are of importance to the committee are not funded in the subcommittee appropriations approvals are: Domestic Violence Shelter Funding, \$3.3 million from the General Fund to provide operational funding, for 283 additional shelter beds that would serve approximately 3,000 more victims of domestic violence victims annually. Independent Living stipend for Foster Youth \$2 million from the General Fund to increase from \$558 per month to \$1,078 per month for 319 older foster youth. This assistance helps these young adults pay for rent and other living expenses. Only \$1 million dollars or 50 percent of the need was included in this legislation.

Mr. Clark stated that HB 2608 was amended and passed out of the Senate Health Committee on March 29, 2007 with a Strike Everything amendment. The Strike Everything amendment creates a new priority for the distribution of State Lottery Fund (Fund) monies, by appropriating up to \$5 million annually from the Fund to the Department of Economic Security (DES) for grants for homeless emergency and

transitional shelters and related support services. He added that the bill is awaiting action in the Senate Commerce and Economic Development Committee before it can move to the Rules Committee and final passage, because of the Strike Everything amendment, the bill would have to return to the House of Representatives for that body's approval before it was sent to the Governor.

Jayson Matthews asked Mr. Clark if it would be appropriate for this Committee to send letters to the Arizona Congressional delegation supporting full funding for the human services bills facing cuts. Mr. Clark responded that he would defer to Amy St. Peter to answer about the appropriateness of such an action. Mr. Clark did say that communication with elected officials is always positive and added that having City Councils pass resolutions send a strong message as well.

Amy St. Peter responded that this Committee has recommended that letters be sent to the Arizona Congressional delegation in the past. If an issue is not considered controversial, then Mayor Cavanaugh as Chair of the MAG Regional Council may elect to send a letter upon the request of this Committee. He sent a letter based on such a request asking that full funding be maintained for the Social Services Block Grant. Ms. St. Peter explained that an item perceived to be more controversial would need to be presented to the MAG Management Committee and MAG Regional Council for final approval.

Ms. McCormack moved that the Committee request that the MAG Regional Council pass a resolution supporting level or increased funding for Community Services Block Grant, Community Development Block Grant and the Social Services Block Grant. Once approved, the resolution would be sent to the Arizona Congressional delegation. Jayson Matthews seconded the motion. Ms. Regner offered a friendly amendment to include LIHEAP to the motion. Ms. McCormack and Mr. Matthews concurred. Councilmember Donovan asked if there was additional discussion. There was none. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

9. Comments from the Committee

Ms. St. Peter thanked Councilmember Donovan for acting as Chair. She also mentioned that Chair Lopez Rogers called and apologized for not being able to attend. No further comments were made. The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Coordinating Committee is scheduled for: Wednesday July 18, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 am at the MAG building, second floor, Cholla Room.